

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image transfer apparatus for simultaneously transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of an identical color page to a printer for simultaneously forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said image transfer apparatus comprising:

order estimating means for estimating the order in which image data blocks for the plurality of color planes of the identical color page are to be output in the printer; and

image data transfer means for transferring the image data blocks in the order estimated by said order estimating means.

2. An image transfer apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transfer-enable-signal receiving means for receiving from the printer a signal indicating whether an image data block transferred by said image data transfer means is transferable,

wherein, when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving means indicates that an image data block estimated by said order estimating means to be located at the head of the order is transferable, said image data transfer means transfers the image data block, and when the

signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving means indicates that the image data block is not transferable, said image transfer means transfers another image data block which is transferable.

3. An image transfer method for use in a host computer for simultaneously transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of an identical color page to a printer for simultaneously forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said image transfer method comprising:

an order estimating step of estimating the order in which image data blocks for the plurality of color planes of the identical color page are to be output in the printer; and

an image data transfer step of transferring the image data blocks in the order estimated by said order estimating step.

4. An image transfer method according to claim 3, further comprising a transfer-enable-signal receiving step of receiving from the printer a signal indicating whether an image data block transferred by said image data transfer step is transferable,

wherein, when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that an image data

block estimated by said order estimating step to be located at the head of the order is transferable, said image data transfer step transfers the image data block, and when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that the image data block is not transferable, said image transfer step transfers another image data block which is transferable.

5. A computer program executed by a host computer for simultaneously transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of an identical color page to a printer for simultaneously forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said computer program comprising:

an order estimating step of estimating the order in which image data blocks for the plurality of color planes of the identical color page are to be output in the printer; and

an image data transfer step of transferring the image data blocks in the order estimated by said order estimating step.

6. A computer program according to claim 5, further comprising a transfer-enable-signal receiving step of receiving from the printer a signal indicating whether an image data block transferred by said image data transfer

step is transferable,

wherein, when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that an image data block estimated by said order estimating step to be located at the head of the order is transferable, said image data transfer step transfers the image data block, and when the signal received by said transfer-enable-signal receiving step indicates that the image data block is not transferable, said image transfer step transfers another image data block which is transferable.

7. An image transfer method for transferring image data for a plurality of color planes of a color page to a printer for forming an image having the plurality of color planes, said image transfer method comprising:

estimating the order for outputting the image data blocks of the plurality of color planes of the color page to the printer; and

transferring the image data blocks to the printer in the estimated order.

8. An image transfer method according to claim 7, further comprising

receiving from the printer a signal to indicate whether an image data block is transferable,

wherein, when the signal indicates that the image data block estimated to be located at the head of the order is transferable, the image data block is transferred, and when the signal indicates that the image data block is not transferable, another image data block, which is transferable is transferred.